

First Baptist Church
of Greenfield, Ohio

Constitution

Approved January 2006

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Preamble – Our Statement of Faith

We trust wholly in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, believing in the teachings and practices of the Baptists and in those great distinctive principles for which they have ever stood, namely:

1. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God, and our Savior and Lord.
2. We believe in the Bible as the divinely inspired record of God's actions in history. We believe it to be completely trustworthy and to be the supreme authority for life and faith.
3. We believe that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
4. We believe that Jesus died upon a cross to save us from our sins and was physically resurrected on the third day.
5. We believe in two sacred ordinances. We baptize believers by immersion. We celebrate the Lord's Supper in memory of the sufferings of Christ.
6. We believe in the priesthood of all believers. Therefore, God's grace and forgiveness come directly to each believer, and each one may approach God directly through Christ.
7. We believe that all Christians, laity and clergy, empowered by the Holy Spirit, are called together to be a family of disciples encouraging one another, serving, and witnessing at home and throughout the world.
8. We believe in the complete autonomy of the local church and its interdependence in association and partnership with other Baptist churches.
9. We believe in the absolute separation of Church and State.

We, therefore, band ourselves together as a body of baptized (immersed) believers in Jesus Christ and adopt for our government, plan of worship, and service, the following articles:

Article 1 – Name

This organization shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Greenfield, Ohio.

Article 2 – Purpose

The purpose of this Church shall be the advancement of the Kingdom of God. It shall seek to attain this end through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor, and Christian education.

Article 3 – Denominational Cooperation

- 3.11 This Church is to cooperate with the Clinton Association of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio, and the American Baptist Churches, USA.
- 3.12 This church does not cooperate with or support the National Council of Churches or the World Council of Churches.

Article 4 – Membership

Section 4.1 – Qualifications:

- 4.11 Upon confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and after baptism by immersion; or
- 4.12 By letter from any other Church of like faith and order; or
- 4.13 Upon statement of Christian experience, if previously baptized by immersion; or
- 4.14 By restoration.
- 4.15 The above person may become a member of this Church after counseling, instruction and recommendation for approval by the Senior Pastor.
- 4.16 Affirmation of new members by the congregation shall be conducted at a Sunday worship service in a manner similar to the following. “All who wish to join in welcoming Miss Clark into membership in our congregation by offering the right hand of fellowship, let it be known by voicing a hearty ‘Amen’ at this time.”

Section 4.2 – Duties of Members:

- 4.21 In order that persons seeking Church membership may be informed as to the duties of the members, they shall have the Church Covenant presented to them by the Senior Pastor or the Board Chairman/Church Moderator, and shall subscribe to it as it is in keeping with biblical truth.
- 4.22 Members in good standing will strive to keep their covenant obligations.

Section 4.3 – Dismissal of Members:

- 4.31 A Letter of Dismissal for the purpose of uniting with some other Church shall be granted to members upon request of that Church; this request shall be granted by the vote of the Church at any regular devotional or business meeting.
- 4.32 A member of the Church who is willfully absent from the Church Services

to the degree the member has only attended three or less Worship services or mid-week Prayer and Bible studies in the past year, they shall be placed on the Inactive Resident Membership List.

- 4.33 The Worship and Outreach Committee declares and semi-annually updates the Active Resident Membership list, which includes shut-ins, servicemen, and college students, and presents it at the July and Annual Business meetings.
- 4.34 The Worship and Outreach Committee will investigate cases of immorality and any needed recommendations made to the Church for action. Members actively engaged in an immoral and unbiblical lifestyle, having been contacted and counseled by the senior pastor and a board member and refusing to alter their lifestyle, are eligible for dismissal from the church membership by a recommendation of the board and vote of the congregation.

Section 4.4 - Request for Erasure of Name

- 4.41 When a member requests that his or her name be erased from the Church roll, the Worship and Outreach Committee shall investigate, and if they are satisfied that said member cannot be reclaimed, they shall present to the Church a recommendation that the name be erased from the membership roll. The Church may immediately act upon such recommendation.

Section 4.5 – Non-Resident Members:

- 4.51 Members, upon relocating, shall without delay, furnish the Senior Pastor their new post office address, and the name and address of the nearest Baptist Church or church of like faith and order.
- 4.52 Members moving to a community where there is a Baptist Church, or church of like faith and order, shall without delay transfer their membership to said Baptist Church.
- 4.53 Members moving to a community where there is not a Baptist Church, or church of like faith and order, should without delay, transfer their membership to another Church of their choice.

Article 5 – Officers

Section 5.1

- 5.10 The officers of this Church shall be a Senior Pastor, (Associate Pastor[s] if applicable) and the Church Board. The Church Board consists of the three following committees:
- 5.11 Worship and Outreach Committee which consists of
- (1) Board Chairman/Church Moderator
 - (2) Vice-Chairman of Board
 - (3) Church Clerk
 - (4) Building Usage Coordinator
 - (5) Head Usher
 - (6) Ordinance Chairman

- 5.12 Property and Finance Committee which consists of
- (1) Committee Chairman
 - (2) Vice-Chairman of Committee/Parsonage Rep
 - (3) Treasurer
 - (4) Financial Secretary
 - (5) Worship Center Building Rep
 - (6) Family and Fellowship Building Rep

- 5.13 Christian Education Committee which consists of
- (1) Committee Chairman
 - (2) Sunday School Superintendent/Vice-Chairman of Committee
 - (3) Youth Chairman
 - (4) Missionary Chairman
 - (5) Fellowship Chairman
 - (6) Children's Ministry Chairman

Section 5.2

- 5.21 The members of the Property and Finance Committee are the Trustees of the Church for signing legal documents

Section 5.3

- 5.31 After January 1st, the Senior Pastor calls the Church Board to order for organization. The Senior Pastor calls for nomination of Board Chairman/Church Moderator. After he/she is elected, then organization proceeds by electing the Financial Secretary, Church Clerk, Treasurer, and remaining officers of the Church Board.

- 5.32 Each of the three committees selects their own subcommittees from the Church membership.

Section 5.4

- 5.41 All officers shall be members of this Church in good standing and shall, with exception of the Pastor(s), be elected by written ballot at the annual election of officers.
- 5.42 Members of the Board shall be elected for a term of three years. (Refer to Section 8.4)

Section 5.5

- 5.51 All officers shall be informed as to the duties pertaining to their respective offices.
- 5.52 The Board shall, unless otherwise provided in this constitution, elect its own chairman and meet regularly, at a stated time, at least once each month.
- 5.53 All officers shall assume office at the time of assignment of board positions at the first board meeting of the fiscal year of the Church.

Section 5.6

- 5.61 Any officer who, for a period of three months, shall fail to faithfully perform the duties pertaining to his/her office, thereby automatically vacates said office.
- 5.62 Officers guilty of violating the integrity of the office of deacon/deaconess by an immoral and unbiblical lifestyle, after contact and counsel by the

board chairman and Senior Pastor, and refusing to repent, shall be recommended to the Church Board for removal.

- 5.63 The Church has the power, for good and sufficient cause, to remove from office any officer or committeeperson, after personal contact by the Board Chairman/Church Moderator and another Board Member.

Section 5.7

- 5.71 Resignations of officers should be in writing to the Church, and be effective on the date specified in the resignation.

Article 6 – Duties of Officers

Section 6.1 – Duties of the Pastor(s)

Duties of the Senior Pastor

- 6.11 The Senior Pastor shall lead the congregation through preaching the Gospel; administering the ordinances; and watching over the membership; Administer programs of ministry, which oversees Christian education; promoting the spiritual interests of the Church; and organizing and developing its strength for the best possible service. The Senior Pastor shall be the ex-officio member of the Board and committees of the Church and its auxiliary organizations, and give the names of new members to the Church Clerk.

Duties of the Associate Pastor (s)

- 6.12 The Associate Pastor(s) shall serve under the immediate daily supervision and direction of the Senior Pastor, but is ultimately responsible to the Church Board. He/she shall assist the Senior Pastor in developing and implementing a program of ministry, which strives to achieve the mission and ministry goals, agreed upon by the church leadership.

Section 6.2 – Worship and Outreach Committee

- 6.21 All members of the church board serve the congregation in the capacity of a deacon or deaconess. Each member of the church board shall have the general responsibility for providing pastoral care to the congregation through an active participation in serving monthly communion to the shut-ins, assisting the pastor(s) in visiting the sick and inactive members of the congregation, etc.
- 6.22 Board Chairman/Church Moderator – shall be the Church Moderator for all Church business meetings and be the Chairman of all board meetings; shall also organize and conduct the meetings of this committee.
- 6.23 Vice-Chairman of Board – shall with the help and approval of this committee name a subcommittee; they with the Pastor shall be in charge of visitation and the fellowship offering. He/she shall assist the Chairman and in his/her absence serves as Moderator.
- 6.24 Church Clerk – shall keep the minutes of the Church Board, of this committee, and all business meetings. A complete roll of all Church members including addresses and records of the reception and dismissal of members; issuing letters of dismissal of members and certificates of Christian standing as authorized by the Church will be maintained and prepared. All official correspondence; preserving and properly filing all

letters, reports, and other documents pertaining to this office; and assisting in preparing the denominational reports and any others that may be required are within the scope of this position. The Clerk, with the help and approval of this committee, shall name an assistant. The Clerk shall post all business of the Church and Board Meetings. He/she shall deliver immediately to his/her successor all books, files, records, and other documents in his/her possession.

- 6.25 Building Usage Coordinator – shall with the help and approval of this committee, name a subcommittee. This person is responsible for the scheduling, collection of deposits and donations for building usage, and monitoring of all activities in the Family and Fellowship Hall and the Church building.
- 6.26 Head Usher – shall with the help and approval of this committee name assistance as needed. Shall provide ushers for seating and the collection of offerings at all Church meetings. Shall confirm that door ushers are present before each worship service to greet the congregation and distribute bulletins. This person shall be responsible for unlocking the church doors prior to services and locking them after services.
- 6.27 Ordinance Chairman – shall with the help and approval of this committee name a subcommittee; shall be in charge of the preparation of baptismal services and the Lord’s Supper and shall schedule monthly Communion service for shut-ins.

Section 6.3 – Property and Finance Committee

- 6.31 Committee Chairman – shall organize and conduct the meetings of this committee and make reports to the Church Board at its regular meetings. This person, with the Vice-chairman of the following committees, shall annually make a photographic inventory of all furnishings and chattels to be filed with the insurance policy and papers of: 1.) the Church parsonage; 2.) the Worship Center Building; and 3.) the Fellowship Center Building
- 6.32 Vice-Chairman of Committee – shall conduct meetings of this committee in the absence of Chairman. This person shall be in charge of budget preparations and execution. Shall be in charge of a budget subcommittee, composed of two members of each of the committees and the Senior Pastor as ex-officio, which is to propose a budget for the coming fiscal year. The proposed budget will be presented at the October business meeting of the Church for review prior to final presentation and approval at the December business meeting of the Church. This person shall oversee the care and maintenance of the church parsonage.
- 6.33 Treasurer – shall be custodian of all money contributed for general expenses of the Church (excluding the Fellowship Fund). The committee shall approve all budgeted expenses. The congregation, at a quarterly business meeting, shall approve any non-budgeted expenses in excess of \$1,000.00. The Board shall approve non-budgeted expenses under \$1,000.00. Payment of all bills shall be by check. This person shall report all receipts and expenses showing the financial condition of the Church at each monthly Board meeting and at any regular Church meeting. Shall deliver immediately to his/her successor all books and records pertaining

to his/her office. The Treasurer's books shall be audited at the close of the fiscal year. This committee shall appoint the Treasurer an assistant or assistants as needed. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of all money contributed for missionary and other benevolent purposes. All disbursements shall be authorized by the Church and paid by check. Shall make reports to the Church at its regular business meetings.

- 6.34 Financial Secretary – shall have an assistant named by this committee. This person shall keep an accounting of each member, showing pledges made and contributions received for each fund. They shall provide each member with envelopes and with the Assistant Financial Secretary shall count the offerings of each service; deposit the weekly offering into the Church account in a timely manner, and report the offering weekly to the Treasurer, Chairman of this committee, and the Pastor(s). Each shall deliver all books and records in his/her possession immediately to his/her successor.
- 6.35 Worship Center Building Rep – shall with the other members of this committee, hold in trust all property of the Church. This person shall bring a report to this committee at its regular meetings of all necessary measures for the protection, management, upkeep, or improvement of the Worship Center Building.
- 6.36 Family and Fellowship Center Building Representative - shall be responsible for overseeing the care and maintenance of this building.

Section 6.4 – Christian Education Committee

- 6.41 Committee Chairman – shall organize and conduct the meetings of this committee. This person shall make reports to the Church Board at its regular monthly meetings; shall be responsible for nominating a Director for Vacation Bible School to the Christian Education Committee (the pastoral staff should be consulted for recommendations prior to the nomination).
- 6.42 Sunday School Superintendent – shall serve as Vice-Chairman of this committee in the absence of the Committee Chairman. The Superintendent of the Sunday School in cooperation with this committee will have general supervision of the Sunday School. The Superintendent shall with this committee name all the personnel needed to conduct the Sunday School and the Library.
- 6.43 Youth Chairman – shall be involved in the planning and supervision of all youth activities. This person shall be in charge of summer Church Camp activities; and with this committee identify the personnel needed to conduct all youth programs. The Christian Education Committee shall approve all youth activities.
- 6.44 Missionary Chairman – shall select, with the cooperation of this committee, all needed personnel to conduct a well-organized mission program (the Helen Barrett Montgomery Mission Circle). This person shall schedule missionary conferences, missionary speakers, and missionary schools; and shall draw up the missionary budget.
- 6.45 Fellowship Chairman – shall plan all opportunities for fellowship of the Church, such as dinners, picnics, receptions, prayer breakfast, etc. This

person shall with the cooperation of this committee name a subcommittee to assist in these duties.

- 6.46 Children's Ministry Chairman – shall be involved in planning all Church activities for the children, which shall include Vacation Bible School. This person shall, with the cooperation of this committee, select all needed personnel for Children's Church and oversee the nursery and secure help as necessary.

Section 6.5 – Standing Committees of the Board

- 6.51 Nominating Committee (see sections 8.41-2)
- 6.52 Pastoral Relations Committee (see section 7.51)
- 6.53 Hiring Committee (see section 7.42)
- 6.54 Records Committee – this committee shall be composed of the Board Chairman, Church Clerk, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Sunday School Superintendent and Senior Pastor. They shall meet annually (in January or February) to assure the orderly transfer and storage of necessary church documents from the previous year's Church Board.
- 6.55 Constitution Review Committee – shall be convened every five years (starting 2005, then 2010, then 2015, etc.) by the current Board Chairman for the purpose of review, update and revision of the church constitution. The committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor, one member from each of the three board committees (Worship and Outreach, Christian Education, Property and Finance), and two members from the congregation-at-large. (See section 13.2)
- 6.56 Pulpit Committee (see section 7.1)

Article 7 – Pastoral Relations

Section 7.1

- 7.11 The Church Board shall select a Pulpit Committee of at least five active members, (plus the Senior Pastor in the case of a search for an Associate Pastor), and take necessary steps to secure a candidate for office when it becomes necessary to call a Senior Pastor (or Associate Pastor).
- 7.12 The Committee shall investigate the merits of every person under consideration in regard to personal character, education, ministerial record, and preaching ability, in determining fitness for said pastorate.
- 7.13 When a suitable person is found, the committee shall recommend him/her to the Church for consideration.

Section 7.2

- 7.21 The call of a Senior Pastor (or Associate Pastor) shall come before the Church at a specially-called business meeting on the Sunday morning after the candidate has preached (or interviewed); notice of such meeting and its purpose having been given on two successive Sundays.
- 7.22 A vote of three-fourths of the active resident members present shall be necessary to extend a call.
- 7.23 Only one candidate shall be presented to the Church at one time.
- 7.24 The vote shall be by written ballot.

Section 7.3

- 7.31 The Pastor shall be called for an indefinite period of time.
- 7.32 The salary and the vacation shall be fixed at the time of the call, and may be changed by vote of the Church at any regular business meeting.

Section 7.4

- 7.41 The Senior Pastor at all times is responsible to the Church Board. The Associate Pastor(s) and all other paid staff shall be under the immediate daily supervision and direction of the Senior Pastor (or his/her designee), but ultimately responsible to the Church Board.
- 7.42 A Hiring Committee will be formed, as needed for the hiring and release of non-pastoral (secretary, custodian, and groundskeeper) staff. This committee shall consist of the Senior Pastor and the committee chairpersons representing the Worship and Outreach; Property and Finance; and Christian Education Committees (or their designees). This committee has the authority to make final decisions regarding the hiring and release of non-pastoral staff. This committee remains responsible at all times to the Church Board.

Section 7.5 --- Pastoral Relations Committee

- 7.51 The three-committee chairpersons, representing each of the three board committees (Worship and Outreach, property and Finance, and Christian Education) shall comprise membership of the "Pastoral Relations Committee". This committee will serve as a support network for the Senior Pastor, as well as liaison between the Senior Pastor and congregation. This committee shall meet quarterly with the Senior Pastor to encourage the spiritual health of the pastor and the church's ministry. A written evaluation by the committee of the Senior Pastor's service to the church will be conducted on an annual basis each August and presented to the Senior Pastor and Board Chairperson. The goal of the evaluation will be to identify areas of strength and areas of needed growth in the Senior Pastor's ministry. The committee will likewise seek to promote the Senior Pastor's spiritual, physical, mental, marital, and financial health needs to the Church Board and congregation.
- 7.52 In the case of unresolved conflict between the lay leadership and the Senior Pastor, the aid of the American Baptist Churches of Ohio area minister will be sought, prior to any special called congregational meetings. The church's constant goal will always be to honor Jesus Christ in our words and actions, and to maintain a strong Christian witness of unity and love before the community.

Section 7.6 – Termination of Pastorate

- 7.61 The pastoral relations may be terminated upon sixty days notification on the part of the Pastor or the Church.
- 7.62 Termination of the office shall be voted upon at any regular or called business meeting, notice of such meeting and its purpose having been announced on two successive Sundays. A majority vote of the active resident members present shall make valid a termination of said office.
- 7.63 Calling and dismissing of the Senior Pastor will always be the domain of the congregation. The vote shall be by written ballot except in case of accepting the Pastor's resignation.

- 7.64 In case it is found necessary, the sixty-day time period may be varied upon mutual consent of the parties concerned (the Pastor and the Church).

Article 8 – Elections

Section 8.1 – Time

- 8.11 The annual election of officers shall be held in December on a date chosen and announced at least one month in advance by the Church Board.

Section 8.2 – Quorum

- 8.21 Twenty active resident members shall constitute a quorum. A majority of such members present, and voting, at any regular or called business meeting shall be sufficient to decide any question presented, unless otherwise provided by this Constitution.
- 8.22 It takes a two-thirds majority vote of active resident members to purchase, sell or mortgage property.

Section 8.3 – Qualifications of Voters

- 8.31 Only members on the Active Resident Membership List and who are at least 18 years of age shall vote on all matters pertaining to the purchase, sale or mortgaging of church property.
- 8.32 On all other matters, members on the Active Resident Membership List and fifteen years of age or older are entitled to vote.
- 8.33 There shall be no absentee votes.

Section 8.4 – Procedure

- 8.41 A nominating Committee shall be composed of the Chairman of each of the three Church Board Committees plus two members at large appointed by the Church Board. The Nominating Committee shall elect its own chairman. The Pastor shall serve as ex-officio member of this Committee.
- 8.42 The Nominating Committee will present to the Church the names of persons to be elected to the Church Board. The committee will contact and obtain consent of each candidate before presenting his/her name to the Church.
- 8.43 An equal number of board members should be men and women. The men are called deacons. The women are called deaconess. These persons shall be of good report, spiritual, and dedicated to the Church.
- 8.44 At the time of election, any member may nominate from the floor any qualified person to the Church Board (providing the person has been contacted beforehand and consents), at which time the name of the nominee shall be added to those presented by the Nominating Committee.
- 8.45 One third of the Church Board shall be elected each year to serve a three year term. After serving a three-year term, a board member cannot serve again for one year. A partial term does not count as a full term and a board member having served a partial term may then be elected for a full three-year term without a year break.
- 8.46 All elections shall be by written ballot. The election of any officer requires a majority of ballots cast unless otherwise provided for in this

Constitution. Names of nominees for all offices shall be on one prepared ballot, with space provided for additional nominations from the floor.

Section 8.5 – Vacancies

- 8.51 Vacancies occurring during the year may be filled for the remaining unexpired term at any business meeting. The Nominating Committee shall present nominees to the Church for vacancies to be filled.
- 8.52 During the period that a position is vacant, members of the Church Board shall perform the duties of that position.

Article 9 – Church Board

The Church Board shall consist of all elected Church officers. The

9.11

Church Clerk shall act as Secretary.

- 9.12 The Church Board shall consider all matters of importance before they are presented to the Church.
- 9.13 Regular meetings of the Church Board shall be held monthly. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Senior Pastor, or by the Clerk upon request of a quorum (twenty Active Resident Members).

Article 10 – Meetings

Section 10.1 – Devotional Meetings

The Church shall meet regularly each Lord’s Day for worship and the

10.11

preaching of the Gospel.

- 10.12 The Church shall meet for the observance of the Lord’s Supper upon the first Lord’s Day of each month, or at such times as the Worship and Outreach Committee may decide.
- 10.13 The Church shall meet at least once each week for prayer and Bible Study.
- 10.14 The Church shall meet each Lord’s Day for Christian instruction (the studying and the teaching of the Bible) and at such other times as the Church may decide.

Section 10.2 – Business Meetings

- 10.21 The Annual Business Meeting shall be held the fourth Wednesday of January for the purpose of receiving the annual reports of the Church Board and its auxiliary organizations; and the transaction of such business as is proper to come before this meeting.
- 10.22 The quarterly business meetings shall be held on the fourth Wednesday night in April, July, October and a special business Meeting in December for accepting the budget and electing the officers.
- 10.23 Special Business meetings may be called at any time by the Pastor, or by the Clerk upon written request of a quorum of the active resident membership of the Church. Notice of such meeting and the object for which it is called shall be given at least one week in advance of the date of the meeting.

Article 11 – Auxiliary Organizations

Section 11.1

11.11 The leaders of all adult and young people’s auxiliary organizations shall be members of this Church in good standing, elected by their respective organizations.

Section 11.2

11.21 The Constitutions of auxiliary organizations shall be drawn so as not to conflict with the Constitution of this Church.

Section 11.3

11.31 Meetings of auxiliary organizations may be held at such times as will not conflict with the meetings of the Church, and shall be under guidance of the Senior Pastor and the Church Board.

Article 12 – Church Year

12.11 The fiscal year of the Church shall begin the first day of January and close on the last day of December.

Article 13 – Amendments

13.11 This Constitution may be amended at any regular or called business meeting of the Church, by two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Notice of such amendment, stating the proposed change, shall have been given from the pulpit on two successive Sundays.

13.12 The Church Board shall name a subcommittee every five years to review and update this Constitution.

13.13 This committee shall be made up of the Senior Pastor, one member of each of the three board committees, and two members of the congregation-at-large chosen by mutual agreement of the Senior Pastor and the Board.

Article 14 – Rules of Order

14.11 The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the business proceedings of this Church in all cases where they are not inconsistent with this Constitution.

Church Covenant

We believe we have been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior. We have professed our faith and been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit to forsake the paths of sin and to walk in the ways of holiness all the days of our lives.

With this view, we hereby commit:

- To strive together for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort;
- To promote its prosperity and spirituality;
- To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;
- To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations;
- To maintain family and private devotion;
- To religiously educate our children and to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;
- To walk as ambassadors for Christ in the world;
- To be just in our dealings, faithful in our commitments, and exemplary in our behavior;
- To choose to live a lifestyle that is in keeping with Biblical principles of Christian behavior;
- To avoid all gossiping, hypocrisy, and excessive anger;
- To abstain from the excessive or improper use and/or abuse of all intoxicating beverages or drugs;
- To be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further agree:

- To walk together in Christian love and watchfulness, giving and receiving correction with meekness and love;
 - To remember each other in prayer;
 - To aid each other in sickness and distress;
 - To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;
 - To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, (and being mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay).

We moreover covenant that should we relocate from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this Covenant and the principles of God's Word.